

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-20 were previously cancelled, and claims 21-34 are currently pending. Please amend claims 21, 23, 24 and 28, as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-20. Cancelled.

21. (currently amended) A harness for use with breathing equipment, the harness comprising at least one shoulder support panel and a belt portion, the belt portion comprising attachment means for attaching a cylinder of breathable gas to the belt portion, the attachment means comprising mounting means ~~arranged to engage for~~ releasably engaging a mounting portion of ~~a the~~ cylinder, a retaining means ~~arranged to retain for retaining~~ a retaining devise for the cylinder, wherein, in use, ~~a the~~ cylinder may be attached to the belt portion by both the mounting means and the retaining means or else by the retaining means alone, and wherein the shoulder support panel is adapted to be arranged in use to pass around a wearer over one shoulder in the manner of a bandolier or sash, and the belt portion is adapted to be arranged in use to pass around the waist of the wearer.

22. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 21, wherein the mounting means includes a flexible mounting plate for receiving a cylinder of breathing gas.

23. (currently amended) A harness according to claim 22, wherein the mounting plate is of moulded material, ~~such as plastics material.~~

24. (currently amended) A harness according to claim 22, wherein the mounting plate is moulded so as to include one or more recessed portions for receiving one or more components of breathing apparatus, ~~such as a hose and/or a cylinder manifold.~~

25. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 21, wherein when a cylinder is attached to the belt portion by both the mounting means and the retaining means, the cylinder and belt portion are juxtaposed in a first configuration, and when the cylinder is attached to the belt portion by only the retaining means, the cylinder and belt portion are loosely attached in a second configuration.

26. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 21, wherein when, in use, the cylinder and belt portion are retained in the second configuration a user is able to move the cylinder freely about his person whilst retaining attachment to the cylinder by the retaining means.

27. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 21, wherein the retaining means comprises one or more retaining straps and the retaining portion of the cylinder comprises a web, holster or cradle for holding the cylinder.

28. (currently amended) A harness according to claim 21, wherein the belt portion includes a flexible hip-plate arranged for location on a hip of a wearer, and at least two connectors for connecting ~~a the cylinder of breathable gas containing a fluid for breathing~~ thereto, wherein a first connector is arranged for connecting ~~a the~~ cylinder detachably, a second connector is arranged for connecting the cylinder non-detachably, the detachable connector being arranged to hold the cylinder connected thereto in close proximity to the hip-plate, and the non-detachable connector being arranged to hold the cylinder connected thereto between the legs of a user when the detachable connector between the harness and the cylinder is detached.

29. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 28, wherein the cylinder has a manifold, in which the manifold includes a port for connecting a breathing-gas line from the cylinder to a face mask and in which the manifold further includes a connector for connecting the breathing apparatus to an additional fluid supply line.

30. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 22, wherein the shoulder panel is flexible and wherein the shoulder panel and mounting plate are of a composite material.

31. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 30, wherein the composite material comprises foam, which may be a closed-cell, open-face foam, such as compression-moulded EVA foam.

32. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 22, wherein the shoulder panel and mounting plate comprise a sandwich construction.

33. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 32, wherein shoulder panel and mounting plate comprise two layers of foam enclosing or encapsulating a layer of stiffer material therebetween.

34. (previously presented) A harness according to claim 22, wherein the shoulder panel and mounting plate comprises a single layer of foam sandwiched between two layers of stiffer material.